IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

[0001] The present patent application claims benefit to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/465,147 filed Apr. 23, 2003, entitled Vertical Perimeter Protection Mechanism, by Sunay Tripathi, ~~attorney docket number 9599.PRO~~, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

[0002] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/683,933 entitled "A System And Method For Vertical Perimeter Protection" by Sunay Tripathi and Bruce Curtis, filed on October 10, 2003 ~~attorney docket number SUN-P8978~~, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, ~~filed~~ and which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

[0003] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/683,897 entitled "A Method and System for Processing Communications Packets According to Event Lists " by Sunay Tripathi and Erik Nordmark, filed on October 10, 2003 ~~attorney docket number SUN-P8991,~~ assigned to the assignee of the present invention, ~~filed~~ and which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

[0004] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/683,720 entitled "Multi Threaded Accept Mechanism in a Vertical Perimeter Communications Environment" by Sunay Tripathi, filed on October 10, 2007 ~~attorney docket number SUN-P9599,~~ assigned to the assignee of the present invention, ~~filed~~ and which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

[0005] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/683,959 entitled "Running a Communication Protocol State Machine Through a Packet Classifier" by Sunay Tripathi and Bruce Curtis, filed on October 10, 2003 ~~attorney docket number SUN-P9600,~~ assigned to the assignee of the present invention, ~~filed~~ and which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

[0006] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/683,762 entitled "A Method and System For Transmitting Packet Chains" by Sunay Tripathi, C Masputra and Bruce Curtis, filed on

October 10, 2003 ~~attorney docket number SUN-P030156,~~ assigned to the assignee of the present invention, ~~filed~~______ and which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

[0043] In step 230 of FIG. 2, all of the message packets destined for the particular connection are sent to a transport layer component in a batch. In embodiments of the present invention, the batch of message packets classified based upon connection in step 220 are sent to the transport layer in a batch. In other words, all of the packets belonging to a particular connection are sent to TCP module 322 with one pointer. In one embodiment, there are "next" pointers between each of the individual message packets in a chain. Referring again to FIGS. 3 and 4, IP module 323 generates a single interrupt and message packets 401, 402, 404, and 406 are sent from IP module 323 to TCP module 322 in a single batch. In one embodiment, message packets 401, 402, 404, and 406 are sent to a message queue that is associated with message connection "A". Message packets 401, 402, 404, and 406 can then be processed as a group by TCP module 322. This again reduces the amount of processing that is performed upon the message packets. In one embodiment, the queue is an squeue that may be associated with a single processor of a multiprocessor server as described in co-pending patent application entitled A System and Method for Vertical Perimeter Protection, filed October 10, 2003, Ser. No. 10/683,933, by Sunay Tripathi and Bruce Curtis, assigned to the assignee of the present invention and which is hereby